

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN THE MATTER OF)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Funds and Review of Programs)	No. 97-032
Related to Conciliation Services)	
_____)	

Pursuant to A.R.S.  25-303 each county where the court has by rule or order established a Conciliation Court, the petitioner and respondent shall pay upon appearance an additional fee of \$50 which shall be used to carry out the purposes of Conciliation Court. Pursuant to A.R.S.  25-381.01 the purposes of Conciliation Court are A...to promote the public welfare by preserving, promoting, and protecting family life and the institution of matrimony, to protect the rights of children, and to provide means for the reconciliation of spouses and the amicable settlement of domestic and family controversies. 

Further, A.R.S.  25-413 and 12-284(G) require each county to establish a fund of \$15.00 for each post-adjudication petition filed A... to establish, maintain, and enhance programs designed to educate persons about impacts on children of dissolution of marriage, legal separation and restructuring of families and programs for mediation of visitation or custody disputes... 

The court has the duty to exercise stewardship over these and all court funds to provide the most effective services possible to court users. With increasing caseloads, and a recent reorganization in the Domestic Relations Department through Differentiated Case Management (DCM), and increasing reliance on technology and other services associated with Judicial Information Systems (JIS), the Court meets the requirements of A.R.S.  25-303, 25-381.01, 25-413 and 12-284(G) by recognizing the services provided by DCM and JIS in the Domestic Relations Department, as well as traditional Conciliation Court services.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that positions for two DCM case managers and one JIS programmer shall immediately be created using funds as appropriate pursuant to A.R.S.  25-303, 25-381.01, 25-413 and 12-284(G), provided that one DCM case manager shall not begin service until September 1, 1997 or thereafter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that an Operations Review of all programs and services currently provided by the Conciliation Court shall be immediately conducted, and a full report shall be presented to the Presiding Judge no later than December 31, 1997. The review shall include assessment of current services and staff, and shall include recommendations as to methods and staffing that will enhance the services of the Conciliation Court. The review may include construction of a focus group or other technique pursuant to which judicial officers, administrative staff, and Conciliation Court staff might analyze programs, staffing, and service delivery systems, including referral methods and time frames, data elements for evaluations and assessments needed by judicial officers in the discharge of their duties, and any and all other service delivery improvements. The operations review shall be conducted by the Deputy Court Administrator of Caseload and Operations, assisted by the Domestic Relations Court Administrator, and such other persons as may be necessary to complete the review.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 30th day of May, 1997

Acting Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

cc: Hon. Barry C. Schneider, Presiding Judge, Domestic Relations Department
Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer, Deputy Court Administrator, Court Operations
Noreen Sharp, Judicial Administrator, Domestic Relations Department
Russell Schoeneman, Director, Conciliation Services
Michael J. O'Hara, Director, Judicial Information Services
Pete Anderson, Deputy Court Administrator, Finance